

Towards a better understanding of unusual atmospheric events: The Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (UAP) Observations Reporting Scheme

Website: <http://www.uapreporting.org>

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Launched under the framework of the International Year of Asteroids (UYA 2010), the Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena Reporting Scheme aims to approach the UAP from a professional, scientific and academic perspective.

Objectives
1) provide amateur and professional astronomers with a formal mechanism to report any unexplained phenomena they observe while studying the sky;
2) contribute towards a better understanding of transient atmospheric phenomena by applying the most common causes of UAP misidentifications for the general public.

1. Introduction

For many years, very little attention and confidence have been paid to the scientific community by active fields supporting the study of unusual atmospheric events, as well as to the need for a more relevant research, in order to provide a solid scientific basis for the study of the first time unexplained events. These phenomena, known as Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena (UAP), have been observed for decades and their study has become an important part of the scientific community.

Despite the lack of incontrovertible scientific evidence and the tendency to classify the topic as "mystery", the study of UAP is becoming an increasingly relevant field of research. The interdisciplinary nature of UAP research might well represent overall novelty of research. From atmospheric events, near-earth space phenomena, unexplained observations of human activity (space debris, astronomical signals, and pollution) or interactions among these may be revealed by further study. The continuous analysis of unexplained atmospheric events or unusual aerial perceptions could lead to a deeper understanding of our planet and possibly other benefits, for example better air travel.

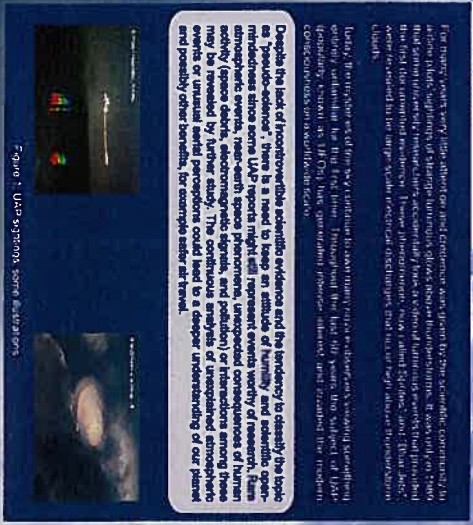


Figure 1: USAF systems, some illustrations.

2. Method

Website
A website was launched in October 2010 to: structure, analyze, and professionalize observations, to formalize procedures for reporting unexplained phenomena, to set up a network of reporting stations, to inform and train observers about reporting procedures, to set up a network of reporting stations, to inform and train observers about reporting procedures.



Figure 2: Project's website.

3. Results

Dutchman's Unexplained Observation
- 27 October 2009
- 18 October 2009
- 13 October 1971

Dutchman's Unexplained Observation
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Spain, Domo de Observación de la Atmósfera
- 13 October 1971

Submitting a report

The website is available in various languages and is designed to be user-friendly and easy to use. It includes a search bar, a list of reporting stations, and a detailed guide on how to submit a report.

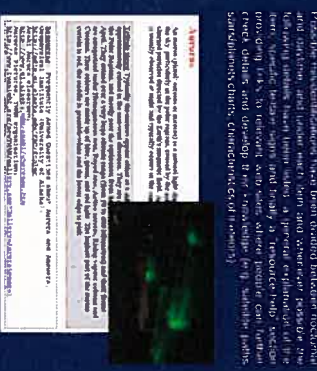


Figure 3: Misidentification's map.

4. Conclusion

The UAP reporting scheme has collected some 24 questionnaires from various countries. The majority of reports concern sightings of unusual objects. Only 11 cases went from amateur observations. While some UAP sightings could be positively identified, some cases are more difficult to correlate with man-made or natural phenomena. The analysis of such cases is made challenging due to short working duration of the observations, the lack of details, experts working on a few relevant cases.

- Positive feedback from the astronomical and scientific community has confirmed the validity of the overall project's concept, and the value of specific features.
- The related section on misidentifications serves as an educational tool to the general public, explaining what can be seen in the sky and ultimately combating against pseudo-science.
- Attempting to collect questionnaires from trained observers via a specifically designed questionnaire provides a venue for gathering more professional, systematic observations.
- Future activities will focus on advertisement in the astronomical community (observatories, organizations, magazines, forums), organizing a national report participation in astronomical events (conferences, workshops, seminars), elaborating the process of collecting, analyzing, classifying and publishing UAP events.

- Ultimately and as foreseen at the project's inception, long term and unbiased research is required.

Outreach

Development of the project's presence among the astronomical community and participation in various conferences has occurred through the following actions:

- 195,20th Symposium on Rare Events in the Sky (2009)
- International Astronomical Union (IAU) meeting (2009)
- European Astronomical Society (EAS) meeting (2010)
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Figure 4: Outreach illustrations.

Rank	Country	Count	Value
1	United States	8,601	39%
2	Spain	2,451	11%
3	Netherlands	1,561	7%
4	United Kingdom	1,539	7%
5	France	901	4%
6	Germany	841	4%
7	Canada	824	4%
8	Russia	824	4%
9	Australia	811	4%
10	India	451	2%
11	Italy	425	2%
12	Italy	349	2%
13	Belgium	340	2%
14	Brazil	186	1%
15	China	192	1%

Figure 5: World map (October 2009 - August 2011)

Figure 6: World map (October 2009 - August 2011)